MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1896.

Subscription by Mail Post-Paid, THE SUN, New York city.

Local News.—The City and Suburban News Burrau of the Univers Press and New York ——TATES PRESS is at 91 to 29 Ann street. All information and docu-ments for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

A Short Blue Book.

There have been welcome signs of late that England was getting some glimmering notions of what the Venezuelan row is all about, and forming some rudimentary conceptions of our relations to it. Yet it begins to look like a hopeless case again, when we find the St. James's Gazette declaring that "the Venezuelan dispute will not be settled until the United States shall no longer insist that we must arbitrate before it upon terms fixed by itself."

Is it of any use to explain that our Government has never insisted that England should arbitrate before us, and has never fixed, or proposed to fix, any terms upon which England should arbitrate anywhere? It has told England that she must not violate the Monroe doctrine. It has told her that one violation of that doctrine would be a seizure of Venezuelan territory. Since Venezuela declares that England has selzed her territory, and since it is a historic fact that England has within twelve years occupied and held an area which she formerly admitted to be in dispute, our country has advised a reference of the question of ownership to some impartial arbiter, Venezuela having announced her own willingness to adopt that course. This England has refused to do, and accordingly we have been obliged, in order to know whether she is violating the Monroe doctrine or not, to do the next best thing, namely, to appoint amission for ascertaining and ue divisional line.

believe, is the case in a nutshell. The High Commission is not a tribunal of arbitration, and has fixed no terms of arbitration. Nevertheless, we admit that, in the continued lack of such a tribunal, it will probably be found that what the High Commission says, goes.

An Ohio Idea Adopted at Albany.

The RAINES liquor bill, sent on Friday by the Legislature to Governor Morton. had its origin, as a principle of taxation, in Ohio. In that State, where the fame o RAINES has not yet penetrated, and public knowledge of his achievements is not yet generally diffused, it bears the name of the Dow law. The circumstances leading to its adoption and those following its enactment are interesting at this time.

In the year 1851 Ohio adopted a constitutional provision against the granting of licenses by the State authorities, as follows: " No license to traffic in intoxicating liquors shall bereafter be granted in the State, but the General Assembly may by law provide against evils resulting

This remarkable deliverance was followed in 1854 by the adoption of a complicated and unsatisfactory excise law, some of the provisions of which seem certainly at this time to be of an antiquated character for a progressive and enlightened American comnwealth. Section 5 of the law said :

"It shall be unlawful for any person to get intoxieated, and every person found in a state of intoxication shall, upon conviction, be fined the sum of \$5.

Here was another provision :

"It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to buy for, or furnish to, any person who is at the time intoxicated, or in the habit of getting intoxicated, or to buy for, or furnish to, any miner, to be drunk by such miner, any intoxicating liquors what oever, unless given by a physician in the regular line

The penalty for the violation of this statute was a fine of not less than \$10 or more than \$100, or imprisonment for not ess than thirty days in fail. In 1881 an Chio RAINES named STUBBS appeared in the arena at Columbus with a bill designed to put an end to Sunday selling of intoxicating lionors and to Sunday amusements as well. The General Assembly of Ohio adopted this Sunday amendment:

"Whoever on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, participates in or exhibits to the pub-lic, in any building, room, grounds, garden, or other place, any theatrical or dramatic performance, or equestrian or circus performance of juggiers, acr bats, rope dancing, sparring exhibitions, variety shows, negro minstrelsy, living statuary, ballooning or any baseball playing, or any tenpins, or other rames of a similar kind or kinds, shall be fined in any um not exceeding \$100," The Ohio General Assembly of 1882, over

whelmingly Republican in both branches, adopted what was known as the Ponn bill. establishing a license charge on the sale of liquors of \$300 a year in the larger cities, \$250 in the smaller cities. \$200 in the villages, and \$100 in country districts. There was to be a bond of \$1,000 filed by each dealer. Coincident with the adoption of the POND law, there were submitted to the determination of the people of Ohio two proposed amendments to the organic law of that State, the first authorizing the General Assembly to grant liquor licenses and to impose a tax upon liquor sales, and the second a straight-out prohibition amendment in these words:

"The manufacture of and the traffic in intexicat ing liquors to be used as a beverage are forever pro-hibited; and the General Assembly shall provide by law for the enforcement of this provision."

The POND law was no more popular when adopted than the RAINES bill now seems to be. It was opposed by both the saloon keepers and the temperance people. Many persons regarded it as unconstitutional, and a case was begun in Crawford county to test that question. The matter finally reached the Supreme Court, which declared the Pont law to be unconstitutional, because it had been adopted at variance with the still exlating provision adopted in 1851. "It [the POND law] is," declared Chief Justice OKEY. "in operation and effect a license within the inhibition of the section of the Constitution which provides that no license to traffic in intoxicating liquors will hereafter be granted in this State." The effect of this decision, rendered in May, 1882, was to leave Ohio without any excise law; and the voters in October, at the general election, did not simplify the matter any further, for they rejected alike the two proposed amendments, giving less than 100,000 votes to the amendment authorizing the Legislature to grant licenses, and only 323,000 votes to the prohibition amendment. Either re-

onired 360,000 votes for adoption. The succeeding Ohio Legislature then took up the Scott law, so called, which imposed a tax of \$200 on retail liquor selling in the State, and on Oct. 28, 1884, the Supreme Court of Obio declared the Scorr law "unconstitutional and void." This confused condition of things was terminated by the adoption of the present Ohio liquor, or Dow, law, still in force in the Buckeye

bill, with variations thought desirable or necessary for the political and climatic conditions which prevail in New York.

The Dow law is a simple measure, while the RAINES bill is not. The Dow law provides for a uniform tax of \$250, payable by every retail dealer in the State, irrespective of the population or area of the place in which he transacts business. One-fifth of the money collected from retail excise taxes in Ohio goes to the State Treasury, that is, \$50 a year of each license tax. There are 15,000 saloons of all kinds in Ohio. In New York there are 40,000. Of the remaining sum paid as an excise tax under the Dow law, three-fifths of the revenue is equally divided between the Police fund and the general expense fund of the locality where the tax is imposed. The remaining fifth is devoted to charitable and benevolent uses

under direction of the local authorities. The RAINES bill differs from the Dow law In two particulars. While the Ohio law establishes a uniform and undiscriminating tax of the same amount on all retail liquor dealers, the RAINES bill establishes grades of licenses ranging from \$800 down to \$75, the rate being fixed by the size or population of the community wherein business is done. From the proceeds of the Dow tax, onefifth, as we have said, is turned over to the State treasury. Under the RAINES bill, one-third, a larger proportion, goes to the State treasury, and swo-thirds remain for

local purposes. While the excise question was the most prominent one in Ohio politics during the agitation which began in 1882 and continued until 1886, the voters of the State inclined rather toward the Democratic side, especially at the beginning of the controversy, and in 1883 a Democratic Governor of the State was elected. In 1884, and consecutively thereafter, with the exception of 1889, Ohio has gone Republican. Those who now put it in the column of safe Republican States are not for that reason regarded among politicians as Republican partisans, for by the general acquiescence of the leaders of both parties Ohio has become, and seems likely to continue to be, a Republican State, with a Republican Governor, Republican State officers, two Republican Senators in Washington, after the close of Senator BRICE's term, and a prominent Republican candidate for the Presidential nomination this year. Ohio has, relatively, a smaller German-American population than New York. The German Re publicans of Ohio who were outspoken in their opposition to the Dow law when proposed, and who threatened to withdraw from that party if its adoption was persisted in, have since that time been voting the Republican ticket, particularly in the city of Cincinnati.

Has Russia Become China's Protector ? According to a telegram received on Friday from Pekin, a remarkable treaty has been concluded between Russia and China. The precise terms of this treaty have not been officially divulged, but what purports to be an outline of them has been published by the North China Daily News, a journal usually well informed. If this outline is correstly drawn, Great Britain will be tempted to offer vehement remonstrances against a treaty which threatens to deal a death blow to British interests in the far East, so far as China is concerned, and which makes such amazing concessions to the Czar as practically amount to the establishment of a Russian protectorate.

The treaty is alleged to begin with the declaration that the two countries have formed an offensive and defensive alliance, and that Russia shall henceforth have the privilege of using Chinese harbors and arsenals as if they were her own. Moreover, China agrees to cede to Russia in perpetuity Port Arthur, or, if the Czar prefer it, any harbor in Kiang-su or Che-kiang, the provinces in which Shanghai and Hangchow are respectively situated. Russia is also to be permitted to continue the Siberian railway tonny convenient point upon the Chinese seacoast, and to purchase and fortify the terminus. Russia is further to be at liberty to erect forts in Chinese territory south Vladivostok to protect the Siberian railway; to march troops to Corea across the Yalu River, and her officers are to have free movement throughout Manchuria. On her part Russia undertakes to lend officers to drill Chinese troops not only in Manchuria, but in Pe-chi-li, Shan-tung, Shan-si, Shen-si, and Kan-su. the five northern provinces of the Middle Kingdom, and she likewise covenants that, whenever China is in difficulties, she will come to her assistance. It is evident that if all these stipulations are carried out, Russia will tend to acquire in China much the same position which England occupies in India, and that if a Manchu Emperor is suff-red to continue to reign at Pekin, it will eventually be with nothing more than the mere shadow of authority which the Calcutta Government left for a considerable period

How can Russia's absorption of China be stopped? The time to avert what Englishmen are likely to regard as a catastrophe was when the designs of the St. Petersburg Government were first disclosed by the demand that the Shimonoseki treaty should be modified, and that Port Arthur and the Liau-tung peninsula should be retroceded to the Middle Kingdom by Japan. It is true that Russia's demand was backed by both Germany and France, but had Lord SALISBURY assured the Mikado of his support, the latter would and could have re ained his conquests in Manchuria and Corea. Now, everything is lost except Formosa, the extra compensation given for the surrender of Port Arthur, and a part of the original indemnity. We say a part, because, aithough Japan holds Wei-hai-wei as security for the payment of the fractions of the war indemnity which still remain due, she probably could be forced by Russia to evacuate that naval fortress. The Mikado, single-handed, could not make head against a Russo-Chinese alliance. Yet, even at this late hour, if England threw her fleet into the scale, and proposed to cooperate with Japan for the purpose of opposing the execution of the reported treaty between Russia and China, it is probable that the overture would be accepted at Tokio, and that the joint opposition would attain its end without a war.

to the Mogul Emperor at Delhi.

Will such a bold and resolute step be taken by Lord Samsucuy? Should be make up his mind to take it, he will reëstablish his Ministry in the confidence of the English people, and restore the prestige of Great

The Craze for Changing Names

The craze for changing names and for making foolish changes has reached the Legislature of this State. The Post Office Department in Washington has done basily enough in this direction, and now our repre sentatives in Albany are going to see what they can accomplish in revising the nomen-

clature of towns and villages. Here is the latest bill in this field of legis-

State, and the basis for the present RAINES | lation, introduced in the State Senate by Mr. HENRY HARRISON of Brockport, the Senator from the Forty-fourth district:

"An act to change the name of the village of North Parma, Monroe county. The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows: Secrees 1. The name of the village of North Parma. onroe county, is hereby changed to Hitton.
"Sgc. 2. This act shall take effect immediately."

North Parma is the only Post Office of that name in the United States. There are almeady six Post Offices named Hilton. One of these is in New Jersey. If the State changes the name of North Parma to Hilton, the Post Office name will doubtless also be changed, and we shall have a Hilton, N. J., and a Hilton, N. Y., with great liability to confusion and mistake in addressing and transmitting letters: all of which will be needless and can be avoided by retaining the distinctive appellation now borne by North Parma.

But when Speonk is changed to Remsenburg and Newtown to Elmhurst, what can we expect? Hauppauge and Baiting Hollow, Horschends and Broken Straw cannot long survive the tendency of the times to transmogrify that which is old-fashioned and savors of the soil, into that which is supposed to be more English and genteel. Save the old names!

What We Owe to Spain. You are mistaken, Gen. Luque, in saying that this country "owes its civilization to Spain"! We do not owe to the Spanish race any of the substantive sciences which constitute the crowning glory of our civilization. We cannot say that any one of he fundamental inventions, which have ransformed the world during our century, is Spanish. The modern industries, which are helping largely to civilize the world, owe exceedingly little to Spain. We did not get our system of law, or our social institutions, or our democratic politics, or our political economy, or our popular educational system, from the Spaniards. The literature of Spain has but slightly affected our civilization. The military arts of Spain have always been far inferior to those of antiquity, and have suffered discredit when ever put to the test. The Spanish race has contributed less than any of the other chief European races to modern progress.

To an Oriental race, the Moorish or Saracenic, which entered Spain a thousand years ago, and which was driven out of it centuries afterward, civilization is im measurably indebted. Under and by this brilliant race there was a glorious advancement of the sciences, the arts, literature, commerce, agriculture, and learning of every kind. Great are the architectural remains of the Moslems which yet exist in Spain. Great are the algebraic calculus and decimal arithmetic, serviceable forever. It is to the Moorish race, which once flourished in Spain, and was there exterminated, that the civilized world owes its gratitude.

It was a woful kind of civilization that Spain gave to a part of America. It was fearfully bloody. It overthrew other kinds that were better than itself, as in Peru. When Spain was driven out of the New World it was a melancholy state of things which she left behind her. It is a malign rule that Gen. LUQUE is now fighting to sustain in Cuba.

True, indeed, it was a Spanish monarch who sent the enterprising Italian navigator, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, to explore the seas; and for this we give credit to the monarch. It was that same monarch who maltreated COLUMBUS in his old age, and left him to perish in poverty.

Spain has had a wonderful history, and is proud even in her ruins. We would not belittle her name. We appreciate the virtues and the hardihood of the Spanish peo-But we are unable to admit the truth of the saying of one of the most savage of Spanish soldiers in Cuba, that this country owes its civilization to Spain.

Buckeye Missionaries in New York.

The missionaries despatched by the Hon. MARCUS ANTONIUS HANNA and other relentless propagandists of the McKinley boom, are likely to fall into a grave error in believing, as they seem to believe, that they have made, or are likely to make, important conversions in this State. Because here and there a McKinley delegate may be elected, the friends of the Ohio candidate should not delude themselves or him with the notion that New York Republicanism does not and will not continue earnestly to desire the success and to promote the candidacy of Gov-

ernor Monton. There is absolutely no personal opposition to him. The gentle and extremely sporadic whispering or hallooing for other candidates means, whether heard in Buffalo or Tonawanda, or among the comfortable chairs of the Union League Club, not any vehement objection to the Governor, but a lively dread of the most distinguished figure in his train, the Hon. THOMAS C. PLATT.

A number, apparently no great number, of New York Republicans are a little lukewarm in regard to Governor MORTON, simply because they fear and suspect the influence and the power of Mr. PLATT: and some few of them are desperate enough to raise the McKINLEY standard, not because they love Morton less, but because they hate PLATT more. It has been demonstrated beyond doubt

within very recent memory that the great majority of Republicans of New York agree with Mr. PLATT and approve his means of management and his policies. In the matter of the candidacy of Governor Morron Mr. PLATT has appealed both shrewdly and effectually to the feeling of State pride, a feeling as strong, if not as noisy, in New York as it is in other States. Governor MORTON is peculiarly fitted to represent the opinions and the interests of the chief commercial and financial State of the Union. Mr. Mc-KINLEY is respected in New York, as he is elsewhere; and he is well worthy of respect, but it cannot be said truthfully that there is any general or violent zeal in the State for the revival of the issue of which he is the most conspicuous spokesman. The courage of the Republicans has been less effectual than the cowardice of the Democrats; and protection, undisguised, and as full of atrocities as ever, grins from the Federal statute books with unconstitutional but unabated glee. The financial results of skylarking with the tariff have not been of a kind to fill New York with a desire for further diversion of the same kind. There ought to be more revenue provided, and it is sure to be provided, if it is provided at all, by means of protective duties. The Republicans are a unit on the point; the Democrats differ with them in making platforms but not in making tariffs. There is no special reason, then, at least from the New York latitude, why Major McKINLEY should be nominated for President as the herald of high old protection; and there are special reasons why New York should stick to its

lic matters. He has never wabbled or crawfished on the financial questions which are of especial moment to his State; and every New York Republican can support him with a full sense of serving public duty and of gratifying the loyal appreciation of the community for a faithful public servant; everybody, that is to say, who doesn't look upon Mr. PLATT, the ballad singer of Tiogs, as a man to be distrusted, defled, and thrown out whenever and wherever he appears as a Republican warrior and diplomatist, brimming with wiles and wires. Undoubtedly some excellent gentlemen, Republicans of from prime to middling standing, choose to associate him with all the works and workers of iniquity; and if he now had MORTON was the only man in the world.

the name of McKinley on his banners and tents, they would have none of that amiable Corsican of Canton, but would cry that So much may impartial students of the shindy set down. It may be that the missionaries from Ohio would have done as well o remain on their own preserves, but since they have come to spy out and possess the land, they must, though as yet they do not, prepare to learn the ancient but still mostly unsuspected lessons that counting hatches no eggs, and two delegates do not make a Convention. "My boy," said the Right Whale to the Whitebait, when that engaging shiner was boasting of his intention of wiping the Ark with the Ichthyosaurus; "my dear boy, beware of Overconfidence.

The Open Doors of the Legislature We do not believe that there was any legal justification for restricting the freedom of movement of members of the Legislature, as was done by closing the doors of the Assembly leading to the floor of that house during the final debate on the RAINES bill; but it seems very doubtful whether the constitutional provision, requiring the doors of the Senate and Assembly to be kept open, applies to such a case.

"The doors of each house," says section 11 of Article III. of the Constitution, 'shall be kept open except when the public welfare shall require secrecy."

The reference to secrecy in the last claus clearly indicates that the purpose of the provision is to preserve the publicity of all legislative proceedings save those which ought temporarily to be kept secret for the good of the people. It never occurred to the framers of the Constitution that there would be any difficulty of ingress or egress on the part of legislators themselves; but the requirement to keep the doors open was manifestly intended to enable the public to see and hear, under all ordinary circumstances, what their representatives at Albany may be doing and saying.

Now, we do not understand that there was any interference with the access of the public, on Thursday last, to that part of the Assembly chamber assigned to listeners and spectators; and if the public were allowed to come and go without let or hindrance. we hardly think that the constitutional mandate as to open doors was disregarded, whatever may be said as to the infringement of the legal rights of those members of the Legislature who were restrained of their liberty upon the floor.

The mail now at the Waldorf Hotel and in the General Post Office, the various substations, and piled up in trucks stalled by the snow is of a frightful bulk and only to estimated by the thousand tons. Packs of it higher than the hotel and the Post Office block up town and down town. The ferryboats cannot move on account of it. The snow storm hasn't choked traffic a second where that vast pile of correspondence will check it a year. Post Office clerks with haggard cheeks are crying "When will HANNA come?" The Postmaster-General is withering all the wires in the East and the West with the inquiry, Where is HANNA?" But HANNA is in no hurry. He knows what all those monuments of mail matter consist of. One half is composed of letters from all the REED, MOR-TON, QUAY, ALLISON, CULLOM, BURROWS, DAVIS, and MANDERSON men in the country, asking leave to nominate Major McKinley by general consent under suspension of the rules; the other half consists of urgent private letters from Major PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY HANDY, the seer with the patulous whiskers. averring that he was the first to move so to make the nomination. There will be no trouble about opening that mail. MARCUS ANTONINUS

Ancient history has recorded with much satisfaction that the Ancient and Honorabl Artillery Company of Boston, the oldest and thirstlest collection of martialists in the United States, got its charter on March 17. The as was glorious, but too great for belief. The Ancient and Honorables are great load, an aggregation of much solidity and majesty; and receptive and hospitable as St. Patrick's Day is, it is not blg enough to crowd into it the Massachusetts warriors, too. History has now obtained leave to amend. It appears that the Ancients' char ter bears the date of March 13. Irrespective of which the company is gradually biring all the passenger and freight steamers in the world for the purpose of conveying itself, its unrivalled commissary department, and its stock of uniforms, the largest known, to Lonon next summer. The Prince of WALES, an honorary member, has promised to go to the dinner of the company in London in July, and his consent shows that he regards his consti-

tution as unimpaired. Mr. RICHARD HOVEY, the distinguished Bostonian and poet, is about to bless the world with a translation of some more of the plays of M. MAURICE MAETERLINCE, the great young Belgian, who thinks in the deaf and dumb alphabet and writes entirely in interjections, M. MAETERLINCK has never been able to find out what his plays are about. He understands English, and could ascertain, if he chose to take the trouble, what, if anything, those productions of hieroglyphic ejaculation mean. The rouble is that if they mean anything, and Mr. Hovey has found it out, and the rest of the vorld finds it out, too, what is to become of M. MAETERLINCK? His disciples will scatter. They will have no use for a fellow who is capable of being understood in any language. The only for a really great writer of the really great modern type to maintain his reputation is never to write, never to say anything. He should never even be weak nough to stutter and mumble inarticulately. Absolute silence, absolute repose, before all abor is cheap, and the capacity of admiration is boundless. Motto for a great modern poet or playsmith, symbolistor simian; Shut up, and

let the other people do the advertising. There are reasons why England might well undertake to and Italy by an expedition against the dervishes of the Soudan. In the first face, it would be a return for the help which Italy was ready to give England in the days when Gonnon was lighting the Mahdl and when England made her former expedition into the Soudan. Thus it would earn Italy's grati de, and England hasn't so many friends on the Continent or anywhere else as to make this a consideration of no importance. Again, she might really be protecting Egypt in defeating the dervishes. There is no saying what revival of aggressions might follow Italy's abandonmen of Kassala, unless a check were promptly administered to the exulting Arabs.

On the other hand, England's past experience may make her wary, because a defeat would mean loss of prestige, only to be recovered as great cost. But it should be said that even Italy own man. Governor Morron is sound, found little trouble in handling the dervished from the Republican standpoint, on all publat Kamala. Banatism defeated them again and again with ease, and it was only because his hands were too full with the Abyasinians that he did not do it again. Is there any reason, apart from rumor, to assume that the derviabes are acting in alliance with King MENELER? The Abysainians and they are old foes, hostile in race and religion, and King Joun lost his life while fighting them, at a time when he was also hostile to the Italians.

Kentucky wakes from a placid Sunday to what the Peace Societies and everybody else hope will be a placid Monday. The clash of resounding arms is not borne upon the gale from Frankfort. The Hon. Jack CHINN has not mobilized himself in force again and is not waving wildly. The Hon. William O'CONNELL BRADLEY has as yet refused to electrify his war steed, illuminate his regiment of back-county whiskers with red fire, order the Frankfort Tucket Corps to sound, and fulmine through the State House. The Hon. JOSEPH CALLIOPE STENTOR BLACKBURN has not set up his hat on a pole and blown to the winds for succor. There viil be no bloodshed in Frankfort until the baseball season opens its gates of gore. with whiskey reigns once more in the happy memorial places.

The Hon. JOHN RAINES of Canandaigua stands to-day like a god or glorious image, mounted on lovely legs whereof one is named furlsprudence and the other Excise Reform. His mighty head, hot with cogitation, is cooled by the pure air of statesmanship in which it revolves, as good a piece of wheelwork as the proudest of the planets. The imperial figure of Bunco, clad in a green simar of flash rolls, gives him the glad hand; and a hundred rural figures, sliding around on snowshoes, burn hayseed in censers of brass. All other candidates for Governor slink away before him. His boom possesses the earth. A chorus of Republicans brims the beaker in his honor, and dances around him, crying between drinks:

" Hooray, hurrah for the glorious Raines, By whom the rural treasury gains; We'll pour and guzzle and soak and swill, While the wicked cities load our till; Drink deep till never a drop remains. And yell for the Bunco Hill and RAINES!"

What a busy man is the Hon. ELIJAH ADAMS MORSE, M. C., the SOLOMON of Shall-I-Go-Naked, Mass. He must be the busiest thing in the world, and the ant is a loafer compared to him. With one hand he is going through his old but always interesting performance of "putting God in the Constitution;" with the other he is scattering Government seeds from a cornucopia twelve times the size of the Great Pyramid. His feet are on Plymouth Rock, the heaven is his sounding board; his eyes are on the A. P. A.; and his voice is for whatsoever he thinks Good, Instructive, and Popular. There are few more pleasing sights than is the sight of this good man, tolling or the universe in general and the Republican nomination for Governor of Massachusetts in

Senator FAULENER's notice of his intention to try to provide in the Navy Appropria-tion bill for six submarine boats of the HoL-LAND type, shows confidence in these interesting craft. Indeed, if they should prove very successful there would be such a rush for them that half a dozen might only be a beginning. But his proposed amendment ought not to "direct" Secretary HERBERT to make a contract for six more boats; it should, at most, simply authorize him to do so, providing the one now building at Baltimore should fulfil the contract requirements, and should also, in his opinion, be sufficiently successful to warrant duplication. Had the Navy Department been positively directed to contract for six ships like the Vesuvius, which was also a novelty, it would have been a mistake. In fact, when only one additional Vesuvius was authorized, it was made discretionary with the Secretary to build it, and Vesuvius No. 2 was never It is to be hoped that the HOLLAND boats will prove a great triumph; but we can tell more about that next year.

The Hon. JOE FIFER was once eminent as the Governor of Illinois, but since the Hon. JOHN PARDON ALTGELD has been Governor of Illinois, former occupants of that office have a certain shyness about mentioning it. As one of the few surviving privates of the civil war however, who have struggled into politics, JOE FIFER continues to be memorable; and bustling, hustling, rustling, and full of his own ingenious system of modified and furtrimmed English eloquence he has long been known to be. Him the Illinois Re publicans are striving to induct into the post of Illinois member of the National Republican Committee, but Joseph mildly waves them away. But he will accept; he must ept. He is the boy to stir things up, to make all split. He is full of bees and birds, and flowers and honey, and lightning and sand of gold. The National Committee cannot afford to be without him for a day. He is probably the only man who is able to keep the Hon. Thomas HENRY CARTER, Chairman, from swooping back into the nether clefts of Montana and howling for free silver until the earth has ap

The Behring Stratt Route to Europe.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Under the above title THE SUN published on Saturday an article, signed Boris Lanin of Philadelphia, arguing against the possibility of the construction and utilization of a railroad in Siberia which would meet another in Alaska, the two railroads being connected by means of ferryboats across Behring Strait.

" Not long ago," writes Mr. Boris Lanin, telegraph informed us that an engineer of the Siberian road had been interviewed in California, and that he had spoken of ships already in course of construction in Siberian ports to make this connection."

Permit me to deny that Mr. Monkovski, a chief civil engineer of the Amoor province and the gentleman who was interviewed in California on the subject, and for whom I-acted as an interpreter, over uttered such absurdity. He spoke of connecting the terminus of the Siberian road, whether Viadivostok or some other port, with California; foreseeing an immense development of traffic between Russia and America as soon as the Siberian road is finished, that is to say in about two years.

Mr. Monkovski expressed the hope that five or six steamers may be ready to meet a large demand for transportation of men and goods.

Not only is Siberia itself rich in furs, coal, gold, &c., but products of Corea, China, and Japan will be diverted into this new channel, and will help to swell considerably the bulk of trade, and consequently of transportation, between the two countries.

Mr. Monkovski at present is on his way to St. Petersburg, where he will lay his plans before the Russian Government. It is much better to help all we can to realize the closer relations between our two friendly countries, instead of placing the originator of this project, a high official, in the ridiculous position of a promuter of a railroad somewhere near the North Fole.

New York, March 12. Leo Nahokoff, chief civil engineer of the Amoor province and

The American Spirit in the G. A. R. To the Editon of The Sun Kirl I heaving are in oubt as to the feelings of the Grand Army of the Republic about marching with the ex-Confederates. Why not ask them to express themselves on the ant-ject? I for one would rather march beside any vet-eran of the South who was willing to march with me

than by the side of the Northern veteran who should

object to him.

We are one people now, and why should we expect them to forget the contest in which they gained credit for hereism in the estimation of all the world, as long as its recollection does not involve present di New York, March 15. A Union Soldies.

The Kentucky Colonel and the Devil Fish TO THE HOTOR OF THE SIX-Sir. I am greatly pleased with THE NEWS explanation of that ast story from Florida in which a Ken story from Pioridia in which a Kentheky Colone interacts his experience with a devil ish weighting a ton and possessing 140 ternisales, hair of which the Colone in the colone is the colone in the colone in the colone in the colone in the colone is the colone in the colone in the colone is the colone in the colone in the colone in the colone is the colone in the co

> March. Who is the man says March is spring? I'd like to run him through if there were any spring in March,
> Pd bounce it p. d. q.

EXPERIENCES IN HAVANA

Ordent Undergone by American Victims of

HAVANA, March 11.-I have had an experience with Spanish officials which may help to explain why they have not been able to overcome the Cuban patriots. It was still early in the evening when we arrived at our home after a day in the country, and, as the following event proved, we were not expected quite so soon. The door opens into the pretty ittle sala with its marble floor, palms, and, I believe, the only papered wall in Havana, which proudly shone under electric On this occasion, as we opened the door, it revealed a startling picture. The door of the war trobe in a bedroom off the sala, which was plainly visible, stood wide open, while the

contents lay scattered on the floor. "Dios mio! we have been robbed,"

creamed in chorus. Just then two of Spain's policemen aponched, and together we entered the house. Obeying our feminine orders, they looked under the bed, but, as is always the case, no man was there. The birds had flown, taking with them a number of diamond ornaments, fans, and a small amount of American money. The policemen searched the house over, shrugged their shoulders, and called upon eaven and earth to witness that the men had flown, and assured us that had we not returned so early the thieves would have taken everything, even the electric lights. They politely informed us that we must accompany them to the nearest police station and report. We did so and found two or three excited individuals who bade us return home and they would follow. Soon ten policemen stood around our sala and three officials sat writing at my small wicker table.

"Who are you?" the most distracted one of all demanded, "and why are you here?" We told him, while by our speech we proved that we were Americans. Then we went to look at the wardrobe and the remaining articles, while a note was made of the stolen property. We were advised to keep the wardrobe locked in the future, and the questioning was resumed.

erty. We were advised to keep the wardrose locked in the future, and the questioning was resumed.

"Is that your daughter?" the official asked, pointing to my little girl.

"Yes." I responded.

"Are you married?" he continued. Perceptible interest displayed on the part of the ten policemen prevented me from replying as I desired, and I merely said:

"Yes.

"How old are you?" The ten pressed a little closer while I told them, omitting, however, to give them the full amount.

"Can you write? If so, do us the supreme favor to sign this most humble paper."

What bearing these questions had upon the robbery I fall to understand. I was then told to go with a policeman, who carried the document referred to absve, to yet another police station, and the officials there in turn questioned me in regard to my age and domestic affairs. It was proved through the capture of one of the thleves a day after that three men entered the house with a key, and that same key was the only thing recovered from the robber-so I was told. Had there been a man in the family he would have been obliged to witness the torture of the fellow; in fact, might have had it prolonged to suit him. But we, being only women, were spared that barbarism. The day after the robbery the following item appeared in one of the leading newspapers. It may give an idea of the value of the war news published here:

"Last night the house of Mrs. —— of Roston—New York was entered by thieves and robbed of many valuables. They failed, however, to discover, so well concealed was it in the wardrobe, \$10,000 in gold and \$0,000 in jewels."

A walk through the brilliantly lighted thorough fares and countless cafes is a reyelation

however, to discover, so well concealed was it in the wardrobe, \$10,000 in gold and \$6,000 in jewels!"

A walk through the brilliantly lighted thoroughfares and countless cafes is a revelation of existing power. Tables are filled with anxious men and groups of them are gathered everywhere, but the great question of the day is discussed with bated breath or not at all; for officers and policemen are mixed among the people, and wheever daresto, give his opinion in fayor of Cuba is immediately stopped by his companions for fear of arrest. I once asked a Cuban to draw me the Cuban flag on a piece of paper, and he dared not do it. Spanish houses are many of them closed and the families have left the Island. Business is absolutely dead, merchants wear long faces, while one after the other stores are closed.

The only enthusiasm shown is when fresh solders arrive and others leave for the seat of trouble. Squads of them, companies of them, the harrow streets, The Spaniards deck their houses with much yellow and red bunfing, and cheer the poor fellows on their way, many of them to die of yellow fever, or to be cut to pieces by the cruel machete. I was on the wharf one day just after the arrival of fresh troops, who are men sent to Cuba without an idea of the country, without proper clothing, and without one cent in their pockets. They were scattered over the wharf and in the barracks, suffering from the heat and wearing a heart-sick expression. Two of them approached a man standing near me and begged him for a few cents with which to buy a glass

sched a man standing near me and begged for a few cents with which to buy a glass

give one cent to such fellows as you, who are willing to light for such a damned Govern-ment as yours."

Some sat with their faces buried in their Some sat with their faces hursed in their arms, misery depicted in every line of the figure.

Does Vibration Make Metals Tough ! From Engineering News.

that a constant jarring or vibration tends to make metals brittle is one which is thoroughly imbedded in the minds of the majority of so called "practical" men, notwithstanding the evidence which has been presented at various times that no such supposed effect occurs. To the people who still adhere to this time-honored superstitution—we can call it little else—we especially commend the paper by Mr. Outerbridge on another page of this issue in which the claim is set forth that cast from is actually made tough by jarring or shock, instead of being crystallized and weakened. The interest of this new covery from a scientific point of view is evident, and it promises also to prove of no small practical importance. If cast iron can be annealed without the use of heat by simply subjecting it to light jars, is entirely possible that many castings and forgings of iron, steel, other metals, and even of some claof earthenware might be annealed in this manner.

Exploring the Saw Grass Region of Florida

From the Pulatk's Times Herald. The steamer Alligator arrived in port Saturday night, having succeeded in traversing the saw grass region farther than any steamer previously, although several attempts of exploring parties have been made Several Indian mounds were explored, and many relies secured by the party. The Alligato: was auc essful in going as far south as Saw Grass Lake, pass ing through Lake Washington, a beautiful clear shee of water six miles in length by three miles in broadth averaging in deepest parts twelve feet. Lake Washngton is 160 miles south of Sanford. It has always ech supposed that this lake was the "watershed of the St. Johns, the current from this point running toward both the north and south, but these gentlemen found the current northward even as far south as they went. The point reached by the Alligator wa In the vicinity of St. Schastian, forty-five miles north-

Some thoughts on spring are not fit for publication. Spring is the season when poets and livers get out

If you have flannels to shed, prepare to shed them The well known poetleal reference to spring as an "ethered mildness" was promulgated long before the introduction of the Weather Bureau.

Spring poets are the great propagators of pulmonary

Spring, ghantly spring! Eyen a spring chicken is a delusion and a snare If the robin is really a sign of spring, he ought to be

is immed of himself.

In these latter days, hilzzards are the only genuine hardingers of spring."
That the dreeling incidental to spring is greatly our action to reclumn the posity in one column of a newspaper and the weather report in another. In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to

houghts of cough mixtures.

The most effete menarchy of modern times is the me presided over by the May Queen. Franks, this name is applied Spring by any other name would not be nearly so

Possibly it is because spring is the youth of the year that it is so disagreeably fresh. "societ spring, full of sun and blowing roses"-sorethroats and blowing noses.

(pring, gentle spring, get a thaw on yourself) Allison Grammar. To THE EDITION OF THE SUN-SIT: I observe by the supers that one form of the Allison manufacts button

"I am for Allison: who are you for?" to the opinion of The Sex, has a man any show to be President whose campulate grammarians can't write any better English than that?

How's This! From the Lexington Herald. WANTED.

THE NAVY ENGINEERS.

Marmer's Hill Establishing a Warrant Grade in Their Department.

WASHINGTON, March 15. The question as to what shall be done to increase the efficiency of the engineer branch of the navy constitutes one of the important features of the movement to reorganize the naval personnel. It is well recognized that those who manage the motive power of war vessels have a function of high importance, and the value attached to speed as a factor, not only for other purposes but in battle itself, is shown by the great increase in the

power and costliness of the steam machinery of our ships of war. But, as has well been said, it is folly to supply this expensive machinery without providing a competent force to manage it. For a long time the Bureau of Steam Engineering has urged the need of more commissioned engineer officers. But the reorganization schemes generally proceed on the supposition of adding no more offcers to the active list of the navy, as they pro-

pose to increase the total of officers by an in-

ceed on the supposition of adding no more officers to the active list of the navy, as they propose to increase the total of officers by an increase of the retired list, and perhaps by the creation also of a reserve list. Hence it has been suggested that there might be a considerable addition of warrant engineers, as is said to be the system in foreign fleets.

Mr. Harmer's bill, introduced recently into the House, allews an active list of ten fleet engineers with the resulter sank of Captain; thirtoen staff engineers with that of Commander; twenty-five chief engineers with that of Lieutenant commander; thirty-five engineers with that of Junior Lieutenant; twenty assistant ongineers with that of Lieutenant; twenty assistant ongineers with that of Finsign, and naval cadet to the number elsewhere specified in the bill.

In changing the present titles of engineer officers of the same relative rank, "the bill permits no reduction of pay. Then certain reductions are to be made by casualty in the number of commissioned officers, but, in order not to stop promotions, there is to be one promotion for each two vacancies until the new number is reached. This will determine also the number of cadets taken into the engineer service.

Then comes the main feature of the bill; namely, its provision for a corps of at least 150 warrant engineers, to be formed gradually by the appointment of not less than fifteen machinests to this rank each year. These warrant engineers, while the commissioned engineers are to stand watch, and to have charge of the practical operation of steam machinery, while the commissioned engineers are not to be "of a scientific character," but for the first ten years after the nassage of this act only machinists less than 45 years of they must have served continuously in the engineer are not be "of a scientific character," but for the first ten years after the nassage of this act only machinists less than 45 years of the subject of the order of the years in the engineer department. In other respects these THE MAJOR'S TYPEWRITER.

About Five Thousand Mckinley Love Letters Find Their Way Into Indiana. From the Cincinnati Enguirer.

Indianapolis, March 12.-I do not know whether Major McKinley, in working up sentiment for his Presidential aspirations, has a young woman or not to whom he dictates those pleasant little type-written letters that have reached every voting precinct in this State, but do know that they have much to do in strengthening the original McKinleyite and winning over the wavering. Without the typewinning over the wavering. Without the typewriter he could not have reached one-half
the fedia hishs he is now railying under his hanner in response to the clicking of the little instrument in his law office or library at Canton.
On an average fifty Republicans to a county
have combilmentary letters from the adroit lattile Napoleon. One would suppose that the distinguished gentleman in Canton had a powerful
memory for persons and localities, for there is
never the mistake of a letter in name or Post
Office of the one addressed.
Up in clinton County the other day a visiting
politician from the capital was taken aside by a
resident politician of Frankfort with a mysterious wink and nod of the head. "Look at
that," said the veriant politician, unfolding a
letter bearing the McKinley office head and the
McKinley signature, with a dozen or fifteen
lines of typewritten copy between.
"Oh," remarked the visiting politician, who
is an Allison-Harrison or a Harrison-Allison
man, just as events at St. Louis may diotate,
"that is from McKinley, is it? Well, your letter is only one of many thousand the Major has
sent into Indiana."
"That don't make any difference," the resident politician replied. "He may send 100,000
if he wants to do so. The letter shows that some writer he could not have reached one-half

"That don't make any difference," the resident politician replied. "He may send 100,000 if he wants to do so. The letter shows that some time or other he has heard of me, and now, when he wants help, he remembers me. I'm for Mc-Kinley from this time on."

The Major varies his compliments in these missives of good will to the importance of the one addressed. If the latter has a pull only in his precinct, the Major tickles his vanity with a few pleasant words, closing with the hope that he can find it consistent with his views to give him his personal support. If the one the Little Napoleon wishes to come over to his side is of mysterious greatness, he phrases his communication with the suggestion that he, Major McKinley, can't go much further in this campaign unless his particular Indiana friend, whom he takes the liberty to address in his interest, visits convenience.

One of these letters reached a prominent Har-

Canton and the McKinley home at his earliest convenience.

One of these letters reached a prominent Harrison man the other day. It added an inch to his stature and two to his stomach circumference. He had a secret that was burning a hole in his heart. He could keep it no longer, and, singling out a victim whom he knew would be moved by consuming envy took him out of a group in a hotel lobby and in one of the out-of-the-way corners whispered:

"Have you heard from the Major?"

"Major who?"

"Why, Major McKinley, of course. Hasn's he written to you?"

"No, and I don't care a d—n if he doesn't."

"He has to me. Look at that, will you?"

And the victim of envy read the Ohio man's compilments without comment, and, passing the letter back to the proud Indianian, moved off into the crowd to say a good word for any candidate but McCinley.

candidate but Mclinley.
All these letters are the sequence of a request
the Canton candidate made of Chairman
Gowdy some weeks ago. It read like this:
Mr Dass Cart. Gewry: Will you kindly send me
the names of twenty-five or first Republicans in each
county of Indiana who will likely support me. Yours
respectfully. That is the secret of the Major's remembrance of so many ardent friends.

SUNBEAMS.

Michigan's oldest practising physician is Dr. William Sprague of Coldwater. He is 99 years old century. Three men in Lancaster, N. H., hold nine pub-He offices, auditing their own accounts. The vot-

-William Young, 71 years old, and John Purgeson, 82 years old, of Frankin, N. H., have signed articles for a 100 yard race for a stake of \$10, to be run on May 1.

ers are campaigning for a change at the next town

The largest catch of shad over made on the St. John's liver, Fig., was taken last week, when nore than 20,000 shad were caught. Most of the fish were sent to New York.

Miss Lydta Tilden, who died had week in Hanover, N. H., at the age of so, had been a member of the College Church of that place and a constant attend ant at the services for seventy four years. -- Heyelists in some parts of northern Michigan had a novel experience tast week. The snow was well over the top and the fences and so tatek a crus

was formed on it that the bicyclists were able for a week or more to ride their wheels across lots. Firemen to Brower, Me., not \$5 a year salary, by which a fireman usually is made to close the year to deld to the town. One man made a re--Thirty three thousand arres of land hear Atsore, Ala., have been taken by a reignizing com-

pany which proposes to settle there farmers from the Western Staces. Arrangements are making also for the settlement of a large colony of Eussian Jews on a tract of band near Pensacola, Fla. -Mrs. Anna Pawincki, a Polish woman, died in Bethel, Mich., has week at the age of 106 years.

She was a remarkably well-preserved woman, iting its natural color up to the time of her leath. Up to three weeks before she died she was able to do considerable housework, she had ave CATE.—Immediately, 100 cats; bring them to 89 N. generations of descendants living.

by the Portland Company indicates only use plainty that experienced mining men are plainty that experienced mining men are secret in this State and that efficient manager Oliver mine, at Virginia, will now ship more

Britain throughout the world.